

Lawrence Agbetsise

Informality paradigms in artistic research in Africa: philosophy, progression and prospects for integration.

Artistic Research in Africa has been criticized as being Eurocentric, with little done to centre our African worldview's socio-cultural context and peculiarity. Theories, philosophies and curricula in the few African institutions offering artistic research appear to be a response to international trends rather than a result of deep engagement with the field. This has resulted in the relatively notable absence of an African artistic research paradigm and the lack of indigenous knowledge in African art scholarship. Using document review analysis and qualitative interviews, this study emphasizes the need to rethink and propose alternative approaches to adopt, define, teach and conduct artistic research in African universities. Further, it discusses innovative ways and best practices that can serve as an indigenous pedagogical framework from and for the different types of African artistic researchers.

Keywords: Artistic research, Africa, Art pedagogy, Indigenous knowledge, Integration

Biographical note

Lawrence Agbetsise is a research associate at the Zurich University of the Arts, Switzerland. He received a bachelor's degree in film at NAFTI (Ghana) and an Erasmus Mundus joint master's in filmmaking and creativity studies from Lusofona, Tallinn and Napier University. As a research associate, he is interested in the development and integration of artistic research in Africa.